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Regents Approve New Concept For Student Teachers

BY DAVID LIAS
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VERMILLION — A “redesign” of teacher education and education leadership programs that has already been introduced into some University of South Dakota programs will be expanded statewide.

The South Dakota Board of Regents, at its meeting Wednesday on the USD campus, recommended that Jack R. Warner, the Regents’ executive director and



Warner

CEO, affirm the commitment to expand and coordinate efforts to redesign all teacher education programs to incorporate a year-long residency.

This means that South Dakota university students pursuing education degrees with the goal of becoming classroom teachers will do more than complete a traditional one semester of student teaching.

Soon, most teacher candidates will be engaging in a full-year classroom experience in what’s being described as a “clinical residency model” to culminate their teacher preparation programs.

“If you draw a page from medical education, it will be more like a residency, or more of an internship year-long that gets students actually teaching under the guidance of teachers under schools,” Warner told the *Vermillion Plain Talk* Tuesday afternoon. “We’ve done this for a few years — Black Hills State University has done it for some years, and it’s worked out pretty successfully for them.

“It requires some redesign because you have to pack into the other three years all of the

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HOME SWEET HOME



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

City of Yankton officials say that they have been aggressive in addressing nuisance issues in mobile home parks as part of an overall Yankton City Commission directive focusing on such matters seen community-wide. This street located in the 2200 block of Douglas Avenue represents a typical mobile home park community.

Code Enforcement Effort Extends To Trailer Parks

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The City of Yankton has made an effort to address nuisance issues in the community during the past several years, and that endeavor has extended to mobile home parks.

Although it’s common to hear negative connotations attached to those developments in any community, Yankton officials say that association isn’t fair.

“A trailer park is like the whole town condensed into a smaller area,” said Mike Benda, a building inspector for the city. “You’ve got homeowners who think everything of their residences. They take care of it. They make it look nice. At the other end of the spectrum is someone who maybe just rents and doesn’t care about the property. You find that anywhere in town, but in the trailer park those issues are condensed.”

Yankton has 13 mobile home parks within its city limits, all of which have been in existence for more than 40 years.

Each park is licensed by the city on an annual basis and undergoes an inspection in the fall prior to the issuance of the license in January.

As of October 2012, there were 283 mobile home lots in Yankton, of which 202 were occupied. Each space has

“Some people have a mindset about what a mobile home court is — that it is substandard living. That is absolutely not the case.”

ROCKY SCHULTZ

water, sewer and electrical hook-ups.

During the October inspection period, Benda found 80 individual deficiencies. Most of them were related to rubbish, weeds and abandoned vehicles. Other issues included a need to display house numbers, skirting repair or replacement, and the repair of broken windows.

Benda said that, by working with the mobile home park owners, who in turn work with the occupants, almost all of those deficiencies were addressed within a month.

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LaPlante, Lentsch Working Together To Expand Ag Opportunities For Native Americans

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Two members of Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s cabinet say they are working together to expand agriculture-related opportunities for American Indian tribes.

Agriculture Secretary Lucas Lentsch and Tribal Relations Secretary Leroy “J.R.” LaPlante recently spoke about the plans during separate interviews with the *Press & Dakotan*.

Lentsch, appointed to his position about two months ago, said he has explored some ideas with LaPlante.

“Secretary LaPlante would like to work with the (state) Department of Agriculture on things for his constituencies on the reservations in South Dakota. And we’re asking, ‘What can we do to support them?’” Lentsch said.

LaPlante was appointed to his post in 2011. As the state’s first cabinet-level tribal relations secretary, LaPlante said he has made a priority of agriculture and economic development on the Indian reservations.

“I worked with Walt Bones, the previous ag secretary (who retired from the position), and now with Lucas,” he said.

LaPlante sees a large opportunity for face-to-face meetings with the fourth annual Governor’s Ag Development Summit on June 26 in Pierre. This year’s theme is “Agriculture — A Call to Action.”

“With the ag summit, we can get the tribes together with Lucas,” he said.

However, LaPlante emphasized each tribe operates as a sovereign nation and must be treated individually to meet particular tribal needs.

“We want to get out there and see what the tribes are interested in doing for agriculture,” he said.

Lentsch said he’s working to learn more about tribal needs and to form relationships with tribal officials.

“That’s something we have got to learn, first and foremost,” he said. “It’s about opening up the lines of communication and getting around and learning their (tribal) operations.”

Lentsch is excited about the possibilities for



Lentsch



LaPlante

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Community Garden Construction Set To Begin

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Statistics show that every bite of food the average American citizens consumes today travels more than 1,500 miles to get to the plate.

On the other hand, gardening greatly shortens that distance and eliminates higher costs associated with food transportation and retail price markup.

In an effort to cut down food costs for residents, officials at the Walnut Hill and East Meadows apartments are beginning to construct a community garden open only to their residents, all of whom are on income-based rent.

“We are trying to give our residents access to produce that is cheap and, for the most part, free,” said Kristal Seeden, property manager at Walnut Hill and East Meadows. “We’re going to also do our best to provide some plants and seeds, and we’re trying to find as many donations we can

to help cover those.”

Officials are seeking donations of several different items.

“We need supplies to help build the garden, not just money,” Seeden said. “We’re also looking for volunteers to help set up the garden and gardening and lawn supplies, as well.”

Ace Hardware in Yankton is also set to help officials out by donating about \$100 of merchandise for the garden.

Sean Wamble, facilities manager at Walnut Hill and East Meadows said he’s currently going to be the only person constructing the garden.

“The garden will be 50-by-50, so it’s a lot of work to get it going,” he said. “Starting this week, I’ll cut up sod and till it. Getting the gardening going will be a job in itself.”

Despite just beginning to construct the garden, Wamble hopes to have it open at the beginning of July, weather permitting.

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ANDREW ATWAL/P&D

Sean Wamble, facilities manager for Walnut Hill and East Meadows apartments in Yankton, will begin construction of a community garden for residents beginning this week. Wamble, along with property manager Kristal Seeden, are seeking donations for the garden and volunteers to help set the garden up.

Viborg Chosen ‘Capital For A Day’ On July 22

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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VIBORG — For one day, state government’s attention will focus on this Turner County community of nearly 800 residents.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced Wednesday that Viborg has been chosen South Dakota’s “Capital for a Day” on July 22.

“I look forward to the Viborg event, and thank community leaders for offering to host it,” Daugaard said. “It’s an excellent opportunity for me to get better acquainted with them and more informed about local issues and the future of the Viborg area.”

The governor and a small delegation of state officials will conduct roundtable meetings with business and community leaders. A coffee

hour later in the day will provide time for constituent outreach.

A complete agenda will be released at a later date. However, “Capital For A Day” generally consists of the governor and cabinet members touring local schools, businesses, health care facilities and other sites.

With Capital For A Day, Viborg can showcase itself for state officials. Area residents can also use the opportunity to learn about state issues. In turn, citizens can ask questions about state government and inform state officials about local needs.

“It is an honor to be Capital for the Day and I look forward to showing the Governor all that Viborg has to offer,” said Mayor Kyle Christiansen.

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